CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. A method for programming an operator system interface with a simulator, said method comprising the steps of:

providing definitional tables for an operator system interface, wherein said tables define specific governing attributes of said operator system interface;

generating a simulated operator system interface simulator program, wherein when the simulator program is run on a computing device, it displays a representation of the operator system interface defined by the definitional tables input in the providing step, and allows a user to select components of the interface, using a pointing device, in order to view information about the selected component on a display device or to effect a change in keysets or menus.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of generating tables to be used in a software requirements specification.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

generating operational operator system interface definitional tables using the simulated operator system interface definitional tables; and

developing an operational operator system interface from the generated operational operator system interface definitional tables.

4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the providing step further comprises the step of extracting the definitional tables from an existing operational operator system interface.

5. A method as recited in claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

modifying the simulated operator system interface; and

generating updated operational operator system interface definitional tables.

6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the steps of generating a simulated operator system interface simulator program, modifying the simulated operator system interface and generating updated operational operator system interface definitional tables are repeated a desired number of times.

7. A method as recited in claim 5, further comprising the step of updating an operational operator system interface using the updated operational operator system interface definitional tables generated in the generating step.

8. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of running the simulator program on a personal computer (PC).

9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the simulator program is used to train operators in a control and display system defined by the operator system interface.

10. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the simulator program is used to demonstrate functionality of a control and display system defined by the operator system interface.